

## BOOK NOTICE

LINES, WILLIAM J. 1996. *An All Consuming Passion, Origins, Modernity, and the Australian Life of Georgiana Molloy*. (ISBN 0-520-20422-0, pbk.) University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles, California, University of California Press, Ltd., London, England \$14.95. 398 pp, 18 b&w illustrations, 3 maps.

In 1829, Georgiana Molloy, married only three months, left England with a husband twice her age, retired Napoleonic War veteran, Captain John Molloy. Early with child and bound on a grueling six month sea journey to become apart of a new British colony of Swan River in the wilds of west Australia, Georgiana shows a inner determination and endurance.

Looking forward to what was promoted as "England with a finer sky," where settler could dine on roast swan, kangaroo and black cockatoo, they quickly found the reality was flies, fleas, and mosquitoes. As winter rains beat down, kneeling on a wooden box in a cold and leaky tent Georgiana delivered her baby on the ground. Nine days later the child was dead. She was to bear six more children before septicemia killed her at age thirty-eight. Mortality was high for the newborn colonists and the women. Before her death, however, she develops a passion for the Australian flora.

Sometimes Lines' long narratives tested *my* endurance, but just in time, he seems to bring me back to life with the exhaustive research and detail in the day to day life of both settlers and Aborigines and many exurpts from Georgiana's diaries and letters. Contrasts are clearly found between the anglo ideal 'of subduing a land into a garden' to that of the native Aborigine who found no difference between picturesque landscape and wilderness. Aboriginal belief was in the Dreamtime sung into existence by ancestors—a living with the land rather than taming it.

*An All Consuming Passion* is about, not only Molloy's increasing passion for Australian botany, but her fellow neighbors increasing desire ... "(for self-improvement, for getting on, for money) and, by extension, to the modern world's (for power, for conquering nature)." and what an impact these passions have on nature.—*Linny Heagy*.